



Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending December 7, 2013

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
Infectious Disease Bureau – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports come in.

SUMMARY

During the week ending December 7, 2013, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **REGIONAL** geographic spread of influenza. Thirteen influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. Twenty-five specimens tested positive for influenza by PCR at the DHMH Laboratories Administration. No outbreaks of respiratory disease were reported. The number of ILI visits to sentinel providers increased slightly over the previous week, but was still below baseline. Overall, influenza activity in the United States remained minimal, but most indicators have been steadily increasing over the past several weeks.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels

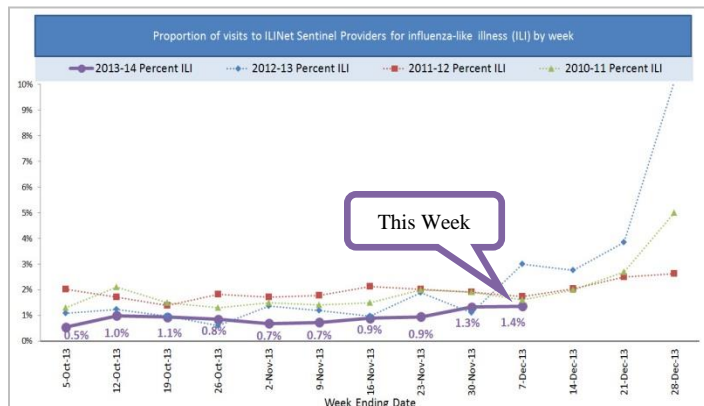
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread

No Activity
Sporadic
Local
✓ Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

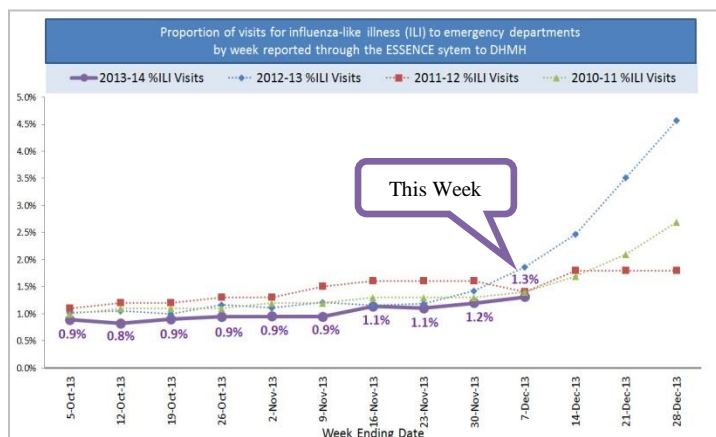
Thirteen sentinel providers reported a total of 8,368 visits this week. Of those, 114 (1.4%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	24 (21%)	35 (35%)	255 (26%)
Age 5-24	46 (40%)	32 (32%)	420 (44%)
Age 25-49	33 (29%)	22 (22%)	217 (23%)
Age 50-64	10 (9%)	5 (5%)	51 (5%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (1%)	5 (5%)	20 (2%)
Total ILI Visits	114 (100%)	99 (100%)	963 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 44,645 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 584 (1.3%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	183 (31%)	173 (36%)	1420 (32%)
Age 5-24	149 (26%)	116 (24%)	1300 (29%)
Age 25-49	161 (28%)	123 (26%)	1144 (26%)
Age 50-64	62 (11%)	37 (8%)	402 (9%)
Age ≥ 65	26 (4%)	22 (5%)	182 (4%)
Unknown	3 (1%)	4 (1%)	10 (<1%)
Total ILI Visits	584 (100%)	475 (100%)	4458 (100%)

Other states' influenza information:

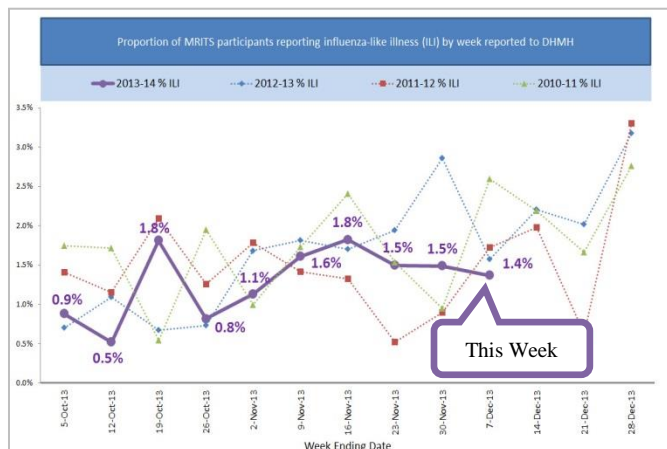
Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
Virginia <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/>
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

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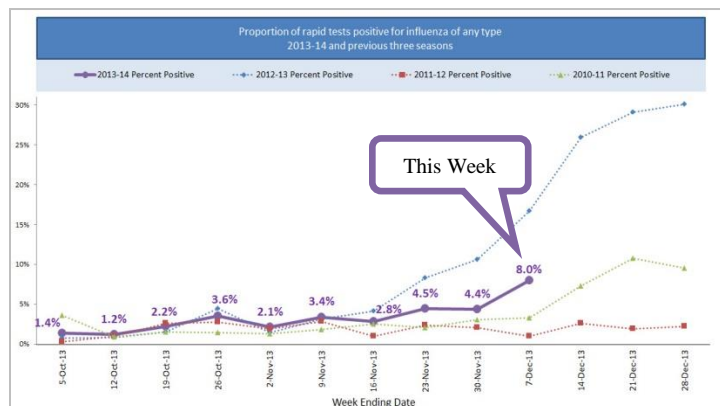
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 585 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 8 (1.4%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 20 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "low" in Maryland.

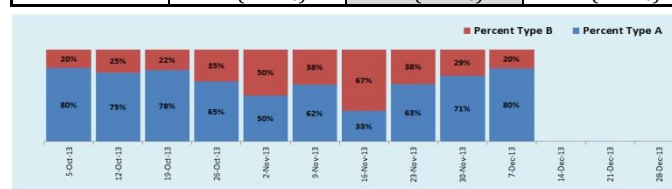


Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Thirty-four clinical laboratories reported performing 1,096 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDT). Of those, 88 (8.0%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 70 (79.5%) were influenza type A and 18 (20.5%) were influenza type B. The [reliability of RIDT](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

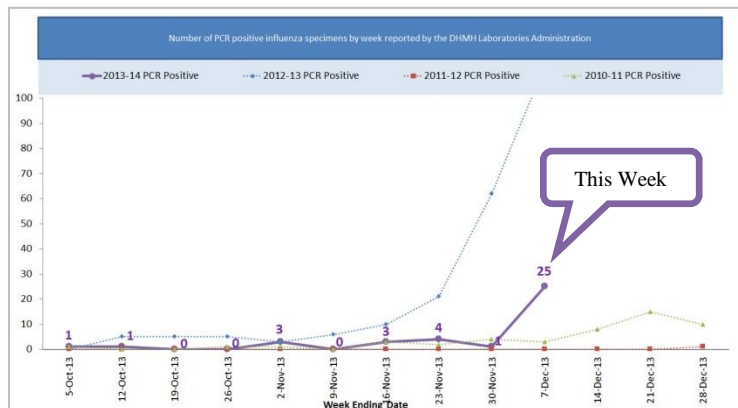


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	70 (80%)	20 (71%)	157 (69%)
Type B	18 (20%)	8 (29%)	72 (31%)
Total	88 (100%)	28 (100%)	229 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 118 PCR tests for influenza. Twenty-five (21.2%) of the specimens tested positive. Of those, 21 (84.0%) were Type A (H1N1), two (8.0%) were type A (H3N2), and two (8.0%) were Type B. PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	21 (84%)	1 (100%)	29 (76%)
Type A (H3)	2 (8%)	--	6 (16%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	2 (8%)	--	3 (8%)
Total	25 (100%)	1 (100%)	38 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

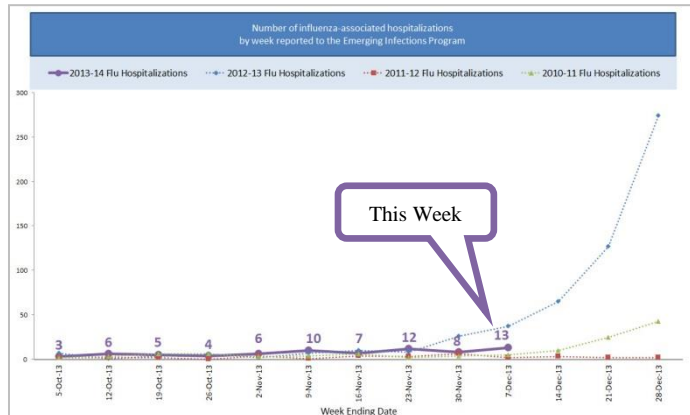
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2013-14 influenza season? Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flum/d/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

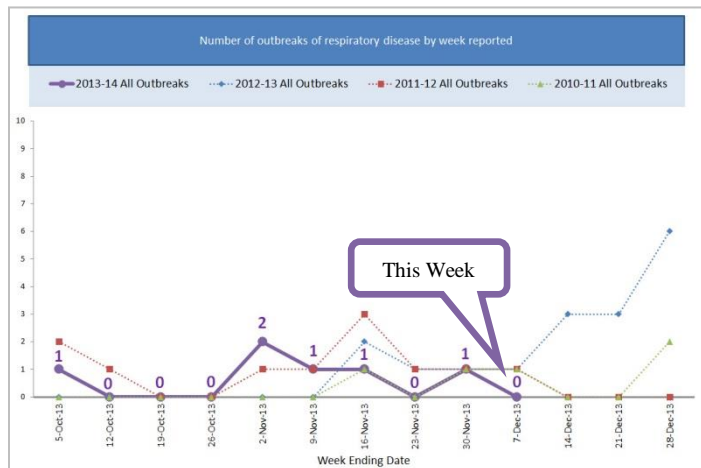
This week, hospitals in Maryland reported 13 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	2 (15%)	1 (13%)	15 (20%)
Age 5-17	1 (8%)	2 (25%)	5 (7%)
Age 18-24	1 (8%)	1 (13%)	4 (5%)
Age 25-49	3 (23%)	2 (25%)	15 (20%)
Age 50-64	4 (31%)	1 (13%)	15 (20%)
Age ≥ 65	2 (15%)	1 (13%)	20 (27%)
Total	13 (100%)	8 (100%)	74 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

No outbreaks of respiratory disease were reported to DHMH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	--	1 (100%)	1 (17%)
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	3 (50%)
Pneumonia	--	--	2 (33%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	--	1 (100%)	6 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

- Viral Surveillance:** Of 6,219 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 49, 830 (13.3%) were positive for influenza.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold.
- Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths:** No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- Influenza-associated Hospitalizations:** A cumulative rate for the season of 2.0 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 population was reported.
- Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 2.1%, above the national baseline of 2.0%. Three regions reported ILI above region-specific baseline levels. Four states experienced high ILI activity, five states and New York City experienced low ILI activity, 41 states experienced minimal ILI activity and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in 14 states was reported as regional; 18 states reported local influenza activity; the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and 16 states reported sporadic influenza activity; the U.S. Virgin Islands and two states reported no influenza activity.

